

08 C 864

NOTICES (continued)

Participants should review their group health plan document regarding reduction or elimination of exclusionary periods for preexisting conditions due to creditable coverage from another plan. The group health plan or health insurance issuer should provide a certificate of creditable coverage when coverage ends under the plan, the participant becomes entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage ceases (if COBRA is requested before losing coverage) or, if requested, up to 24 months after losing coverage. Without evidence of creditable coverage, a participant may be subject to a pre-existing condition exclusion for 12 months (18 months for late enrollees) after the coverage enrollment date.

Claims determinations

If a claim for a plan benefit is denied or disregarded, in whole or in part, participants have the right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge and to appeal any denial within certain time schedules.

Enforce your rights

Under ERISA, there are steps participants may take to enforce the above rights. For instance:

- If a participant requests a copy of plan documents does not receive them within 30 days, the participant may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110 a day until the participant receives the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the plan administrator.
- If a claim for benefits is denied or disregarded, in whole or in part, the participant may file suit in a state or Federal court;
- If the participant disagrees with the plan's decision, or lack thereof, concerning the qualified status of a domestic relations order or a medical child support order, the participant may file suit in Federal court;
- If plan fiduciaries misuse the plan's money, or if participants are discriminated against for asserting their rights, they may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or may file suit in a Federal court.

The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If the participant is successful, the court may order the person sued to pay costs and fees. If the participant loses, the court may order the participant to pay the costs and fees.

Assistance with questions

- Contact the group health plan human resources department or the plan administrator with questions about the plan;

NOTICES (continued)

For questions about ERISA rights, contact the nearest area office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in your telephone directory or:

The Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries
Employee Benefits Security Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210;

- Call the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration to obtain publications about ERISA rights.

Privacy and confidentiality statement

We understand the importance of keeping your personal and health information private (PHI). PHI includes both medical information and individually identifiable information, such as your name, address, telephone number or social security number. We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your PHI.

Under both law and our policies, we have a responsibility to protect the privacy of your PHI. We:

- Protect your privacy by limiting who may see your PHI;
- Limit how we may use or disclose your PHI;
- Inform you of our legal duties with respect to your PHI;
- Explain our privacy policies; and
- Strictly adhere to the policies currently in effect.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices at any time, as allowed by applicable law, rules and regulations. We reserve the right to make changes in our privacy practices for all PHI that we maintain, including information we created or received before we made the changes. When we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will send notice to our health plan subscribers. For more information about our privacy practices, please contact us.

As a covered person, we may use and disclose your PHI, without your consent/authorization, in the following ways:

Treatment: We may disclose your PHI to a health care practitioner, a hospital or other entity which asks for it in order for you to receive medical treatment.

Payment: We may use and disclose your PHI to pay claims for covered services provided to you by health care practitioners, hospitals or other entities.

NOTICES (continued)

We may use and disclose your PHI to conduct other health care operations activities.

It has always been our goal to ensure the protection and integrity of your personal and health information. Therefore, we will notify you of any potential situations where your identification would be used for reasons other than treatment, payment and health plan operations.